$1.8 Million Accord Reached In 1969 Black Panther Case

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CHICAGO, Oct. 24—Survivors of a controversial 1969 Chicago police raid on a Black Panther Party apartment and relatives of two party leaders killed in the raid have agreed to a $1.85 million settlement.

Justice Department sources who asked not to be identified said the tentative agreement has been approved by the federal government but must be accepted by the governments of the city of Chicago and Cook County. They said both actions are expected before the end of the year.

The settlement—to be paid in equal shares by the federal government, city and county—is believed to be one of the largest in a federal civil rights suit. None of the government agencies has agreed to liability in the raid, sources familiar with terms of the settlement said.

Illinois Black Panther Party deputy chairman Fred Hampton, 21, was killed in his bed in the raid on Dec. 4, 1969, and Mark Clark, 22, a party leader from Peoria, Ill., was gunned down in the living room of the West Side apartment used by the organization. Four of seven other occupants and two police officers were wounded.

Almost 100 shots were fired in the predawn raid, all but one of them by the 14 Chicago police officers working directly for then-Cook County State's Attorney Edward V. Hanrahan, according to FBI ballistics experts.

The police, acting on a warrant to search for illegal weapons, were armed with submachine guns, shotguns, military carbines and revolvers. Hampton died of two rifle shots to the head.

Grand juries and a panel of nationally recognized criminal justice experts found widespread attempts to whitewash the events and make it appear that the Panthers, and not the police, were responsible for the violence and shooting.

The suit, filed in 1970, alleged that Hanrahan and his staff, the police and the FBI, which provided Chicago police with information used in planning the raid, conspired to violate the civil rights of those in the apartment.

Relatives of the two slain men and survivors of the raid had asked for $47.7 million in damages.

FRED HAMPTON
... Black Panther leader killed

The first trial in the civil
months and ended with a dire
after the jury deadlocked. An
overturned the verdict, saying t
mitted key errors.

In 1980, the U.S. Supreme Co
overturn the appeals court, and
sent back for a retrial.